

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /062 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W-GADIES:DFP

APPROVED BY AF-WESCHAUFLE

AF/W-TWMSMITH

AFR/CWR-FGILBERT (DRAFT)

PC/DEPDIR- DSEARLES (DRAFT)

S/S- FVORTIZ

S- DPASSAGE

P-PMARTINEZ

----- 024635

O R 060219Z MAR 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055153

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DM, US

SUBJECT:FUTURE OF US-BENIN RELATIONS

REF: A) STATE 490305; B) COTONOU 306

FOR CHARGE FROM AF

1. DEPT HAS DECIDED TO WAIT UNTIL MARCH 15 TO SEE IF GPRB PROVIDES ASSURANCES THAT IT WILL NOT REPEAT DISGRACEFUL TREATMENT ACCORDED AMBASSADOR ENGLE BEFORE DECIDING FURTHER ACTION. THIS GIVES THE GPRB FOUR FULL WEEKS TO RESPOND TO DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S PROTEST ON FEB. 13.

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2. ACTION REQUESTED: YOU SHOULD NOT RPT NOT INDICATE TO GPRB THAT MARCH 15 IS OUR DEADLINE FOR REASSESSMENT OF THEIR ACTIONS, NOR SHOULD YOU INDICATE WHAT ACTIONS WE MAY ADOPT. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD SEEK EARLIEST OCCASION TO REMIND GPRB THAT DEPT ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO GPRB RESPONSE TO DEPUTY SECRETARY'S PROTEST OF FEB 13. DEPT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO MAKE A WRITTEN RECORD BY SUBMITTING AN AIDE-MEMOIRE TO GPRB. IF YOU CONCUR, SUGGEST YOU USE THE TEXT BELOW. IF YOU DO NOT SUBMIT AN AIDE-MEMOIRE, THE POINTS CONTAINED BELOW SHOULD BE DELIVERED ORALLY. YOU SHOULD ALSO INDICATE TO GPRB OFFICIALS THAT DEPT CONSIDERS

ONE MONTH TO BE AMPLE TIME TO RESPOND TO POINTS AS IMPORTANT AS THOSE MADE BY DEPUTY SECRETARY ON FEB. 13.

3. SUGGESTED TEXT FOR AIDE-MEMOIRE: ON FEBRUARY 13, 1976 DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE INGERSOLL PROTESTED TO THE AMBASSADOR OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN IN WASHINGTON SETONDI THOMAS BOYA THE TREATMENT ACCORDED AMBASSADOR JAMES BRUCE ENGLE ON FEB 12 PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM COTONOU ON CONSULTATIONS. AT THAT MEETING, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE REQUESTED ASSURANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN THAT IN THE FUTURE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE US GOVERNMENT WILL BE TREATED IN A MANNER THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN. THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOTES THAT TO DATE ITS PROTEST REMAINS UNANSWERED AND WISHES TO REEMPHASIZE THE CONCERN WITH WHICH IT VIEWS THE TREATMENT ACCORDED AMASSADOR ENGLE BY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN. THE ABSENCE OF ASSURANCES FROM THE GPRB ALONG THE LINES REQUESTED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ON FEB 13 CANNOT HELP BUT AFFECT BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

4. FYI: DEPT REALIZES THAT SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES (CHANCERY, COMPENSATION, BRIDGE FINANCING SHORTFALL, TREATMENT OF AMBASSADOR ENGLE) QUITE UNLIKELY BEFORE MARCH 15--DUE MAINLY TO ATTENDANCE OF MOST, IF NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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ALL, WORKING LEVEL GPRB CIVIL SERVANTS AT IDEOLOGICAL SEMINAR. HOWEVER, DEPT IS KEENLY INTERESTED IN EVIDENCE OF HIGH-LEVEL GPRB INTENTION TO TREAT USG IN MANNER BEFITTING NATION DESIRING MAINTENANCE OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS. DEPT BELIEVES THAT IF THIS IS REALLY THE CASE, SUCH INTENTION SHOULD BE MADE EVIDENT BY MARCH 15. END FYI. KISSINGER

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